

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Colombia

SUBJECT **XII Plenum of the PCC**

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1. The Communist Party of Colombia (PCC) held its XII Plenum, which was called by the Central Committee, from 11 to 13 November 1948. Thirty-two delegates, most of whom were members of the Central Committee or of the Cundinamarca Departmental Committee, attended. After approving the customary greetings to the Soviet Union, other Latin American Communist parties, the CTAL, and the Confederation of Colombian Workers (CTC), several political resolutions were passed. The two most important resolutions protested the state of siege and urged the immediate passage of the amnesty law. 25X1A2g
2. The first session consisted of a general report by Secretary General Gilberto Vieira White and a criticism of Diego Montana Cuellar and his part in the settlement of the Tropical Oil Company labor conflict (cf. [REDACTED]). At the second session Rafael Baquero H., Secretary of Finances, read a letter to Dr. Juan Francisco Mujica from Jose Francisco Socarras, who is studying in Paris. Socarras stated that he had attended the World Congress of Intellectuals held in Warsaw, Poland, during August 1948 at the invitation of Dolores Ibarruri, leader of the Spanish Communist Party. While at the Congress, Socarras conversed at length with the Soviet writer, Olya Ehrenburg, who was a member of the USSR delegation. Ehrenburg told Socarras that the withdrawal of the USSR Legation from Bogota was unimportant because Colombia is considered by the USSR to be a small country dominated by the clergy and the "Yankees". Ehrenburg would make no comment about the Communist organization in Colombia, stating that it came under the jurisdiction of the Politburo to which he did not belong.
3. Other topics discussed at the Plenum were the need for internal reorganization of the PCC, failure of the Three Month Plan (cf. [REDACTED]), the farm question, and Government-sponsored urban housing. The speech made by Vieira White at the meeting in honor of Gaitan, which was sponsored by CTC (cf. [REDACTED]), caused a great deal of discussion. In his speech, Vieira White publicly stated that the PCC supported the Gaitan-Liberal policy. Originally this speech was considered to be a PCC triumph, and it was reported that the Party leaders were planning to present Vieira White with the highest Party honor, the Order of Lenin. At the Plenum, however, certain delegates led by Joaquin Moreno Diaz criticized Vieira White for converting the PCC into an appendage of the Gaitanist Liberal movement and for alienating the Liberals (cf. [REDACTED]). The Plenum censured Vieira White for having made the speech, after the question had been discussed. [REDACTED] Comment. Because many of the protests received by the Liberal Party were

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signed by such prominent leftist Liberals as Hernan Isaias Ibarra, the Communists no longer believe that they will succeed in securing representation in the Liberal electoral lists for the House of Representatives or the Cundinamarca Departmental Assembly.)

4. The last item to be discussed at the Plenum was the election of new members to the PCC Central Committee. It was decided to do this at a secret session in order to prevent members of the Communist Workers' Party (PCO) from knowing the results immediately. A secret meeting was held on 13 November 1948 at which the new Central Committee was selected upon the recommendation of Vieira White. The following persons were named:

Secretary General	Gilberto Vieira White
Secretary of Organization	Jaime Barrios
Secretary of Finance*	Rafael Baquero H.
Secretary of Education*	Alvaro Pio Valencia
Secretary of Agitation and Propaganda*	Filiberto Barrero
Secretary of Labor	Carlos Arturo Aguirre
Secretary of Peasant Affairs	Victor Julio Merchan
Advisory Members*	Julio Posada
	Ventura Fuentes Vanggas

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Comment. Asterisk (*) after position indicates new incumbent.)

5. Reports submitted by various delegates at the Plenum indicated that the Party is decreasing in size. PCC leaders are considering the possibility of not nominating any candidates in the March 1949 elections, because they believe that the Party will not receive sufficient votes to elect even one candidate.

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